

Welcome to Bethania Lutheran Kirke

"Whoever welcomes one
of these little children
in my name welcomes me;
and whoever welcomes me
does not welcome me
but the One who sent me."



MARK 9:37

Eighteenth Sunday
After Pentecost

September 22, 2024

9:30 a.m.

4120 Wright Avenue, Racine, WI 53405 (262)632-7267

Order of Worship for Sunday September 22, 2024

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

GATHERING

(Please rise as you are able)

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Who is wise and understanding among us?

C: Those who seek wisdom and understanding each and every day. Those who delight in God and meditate on God's law.

P: Come, learn more about the wisdom from above,
a wisdom that yields a harvest of righteousness.

**C: O God, your wisdom is more precious than jewels!
We draw near to you.**

OPENING PRAYER

P: We draw near to you, O God,
Source of all understanding, and ask you to draw near to us.
Teach us your wisdom from above, that we may bear good
fruit in our lives. Root us beside the streams of your wisdom,
that the green leaves of our goodness, fed by your insight,
may not wither.

C: Amen.

PROCESSIONAL AND GATHERING HYMN *(ELW #857)*

Lord I lift your name on high,
Lord I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad your in my life,
I'm so glad you came to save us,
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
from earth to the cross my debt to pay;
from the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky;
Lord I lift your name on high.

SALUTATION

P : The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

P: O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Please be seated

WORD

OUR FIRST READING is from the book of Jeremiah, chapter 11, verses 18 through 20.

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb

led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”
²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

OUR SECOND READING is from the book of James, Chapter 3, verses 13 through chapter 4, verse 3 and verses 7 through 8 a.

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they

come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

L: Words of Wisdom. Words of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please rise as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(WOV #749 VS.3)

3 When love is tried as loved-ones change, hold still to
hope though all seems strange, till ease re - turns and love grows
wise through list - 'ning ears and o - pened eyes.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 9th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

³⁰Jesus and the disciples went on and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Please be seated

MESSAGE

(Please rise as you are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY -

“ Lord Whose Love In Humble Service ” # 423

Lutheran Book Of Worship—Green Hymnal

PRAYER SONG

(LBW # 289 vs.1)

1 Heav'n-ly Fa - ther, hear our prayer as we bow be - fore you:
bless them in the life they share, hum-bly we im - plore you.
Be their guide in all en - deav - ors, be their hope that noth - ing sev - ers;
con - stant source of love di - vine, let your love with-in them shine!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation especially Thread By Thread, Racine Community Meal, Racine Food Banks, Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Help us to be welcoming of all people no matter their race, sexual orientation or cultural differences. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer (*especially*). Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

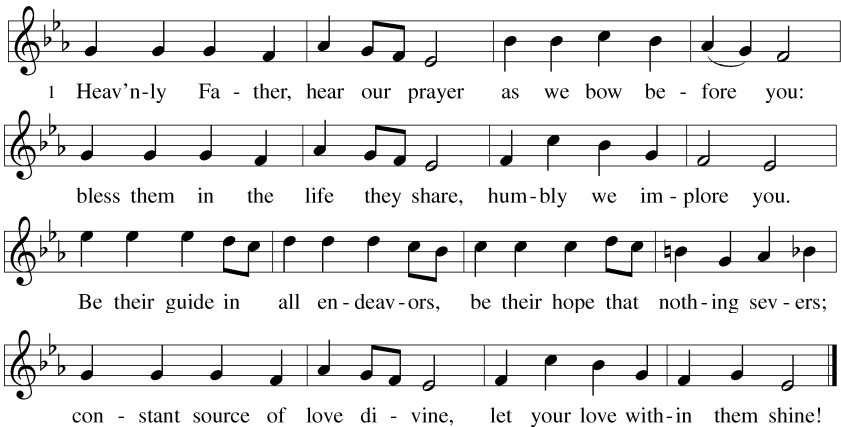
P: Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

PRAYER SONG (repeated)



1 Heav'n-ly Fa - ther, hear our prayer as we bow be - fore you:
bless them in the life they share, hum-bly we im - plore you.
Be their guide in all en-deav-ors, be their hope that noth - ing sev - ers;
con - stant source of love di - vine, let your love with-in them shine!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(Shaking of hands and sharing the peace with others around you.)

OFFERTORY

(ELW # 695 vs.2)

2 A world in need now summons us to la - bor, love, and give;
 to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
 The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

Blessed are you, O God,

source of every gift of your creation.

By these gifts and with our lives,

help us to serve one another and all in need,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL

P: Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to God.

P: Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks,
Broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
And gave it for all to drink, saying;
This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you
And for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.

P: Reaching out to one another, let us join hands and pray
the prayer our Lord taught us to pray:

(You are invited to hold hands with our neighbor)

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

All are Welcome! Come!

(Please be seated)

SHARING THE MEAL

For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine. If grape juice is preferred let the assistant know.

For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.

COMMUNION HYMN -

“ Children Of Our Heavenly Father ” #474

Lutheran Book Of Worship—Green Hymnal

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

BLESSING

P: Go in peace and know that God walks with you on this journey. Bring the good news of Christ's healing love to all whom you meet. .

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN -

“ Thy Holy Wings ” # 741

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

RECESSIONAL

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

(Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing the back of the church)

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Brad Larsen

Communion Assistants: Brad Larsen & Jeff Alderson

Building Host, Acolyte & Offering Presenter: Brad Larsen

Coffee Hour: OPEN

Altar Flowers: Open

Live Stream Tech: TBD

WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 9/29):

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Anita Nielsen

Communion Assistants: Brad Larsen & Jeff Alderson

Building Host, Acolyte & Offering Presenter: Jeff Alderson

Coffee Hour: Church Picnic

Altar Flowers: Open

Live Stream Tech: TBD



**Thread by Thread
Fall Change Over**

Join us for the Fall
changeover

TODAY
following worship.

CHURCH PICNIC

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29,
2024

FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN
THE HEARTH ROOM

SANDWICHES COFFEE
& LEMONADE PROVIDED

Please bring a dish to
share

Salads, sides, desserts

The Calendar....

Sunday, September 22, 2024 -

9:30a.m. . -Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

10:30a.m. – COFFEE HOUR/ TxT Change Over

Monday, September 23, 2024–

Office CLOSED

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Office CLOSED

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Office CLOSED

Thursday, September 26, 2024

Office CLOSED

Friday, September 27, 2024

Office CLOSED

Saturday, September 28, 2024

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.—Bible Study, hearth room

Sunday, September 29, 2024 -

9:30a.m. . -Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

10:30a.m. – Church Picnic